

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE STATE OIL AND GAS BOARD
TESTING AND COMPLETING WELLS
FOR PRODUCTION**

**CHAPTER 1040-3-3
PREVENTION OF HAZARDS AND POLLUTION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1040-3-3-.01 Safety

1040-3-3-.02 Pollution and Safety Controls

1040-3-3-.01 SAFETY.

- (1) Each operator shall so conduct his operations and maintain his equipment as to reduce to a minimum the danger of explosion, fire, or waste.
- (2) All tests for production should be started and completed during daylight hours unless approval is obtained by the Supervisor.
- (3) No boiler, open fire, or electric generator shall be operated within one hundred (100) feet of any producing oil or gas well or oil tank.
- (4) Any rubbish, debris, or vegetation that might constitute a fire hazard shall be removed to a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet from the vicinity of wells to be tested.
- (5) All waste shall be disposed of in such a manner as to avoid creating a fire hazard or polluting streams and fresh water strata.
- (6) No test oil, condensate, salt water, or any other fluid substance shall be discharged to or disposed of in any way into any stream, lake, or other body of water, or into any ditch or surface drainage depression leading to any stream, lake, or other body of water, except in compliance with the Water Quality Control Act and the regulations of the Water Quality Control Board.
- (7) All wells shall have the equipment and containers or lined pits necessary to prevent the spillage of oil, condensate, water, or any other fluids or substances produced or used during any production test. The equipment shall be in place prior to the start of the production test, and shall be large enough to contain any plausible spill.
- (8) All wells shall be cleaned into a pit or tank, located at a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet from any fire hazard or dwellings.
 - (a) If pits are to be used, the sides and bottoms of the pits must be lined with heavy gauge seamless plastic sheets, or other artificial liner approved by the Supervisor.
 - (b) If it seems likely that a pit will overflow, additional pits must be constructed, or else tanks must be brought in to contain the surplus fluids.
- (9) No oil or gas well shall be drilled closer than two hundred (200) feet from a dwelling or closer than one hundred (100) feet from a public road.
 - (a) That portion of this regulation concerning distance from a dwelling may be waived by the supervisor upon submission of a notarized statement by the dwelling owner agreeing to the well location.

(Rule 1040-3-3-.01, continued)

- (10) No oil or gas well shall be drilled within two hundred (200) feet of any water well that is in active use. This requirement may be waived by the Supervisor upon submission of a notarized statement from the well owner agreeing to the location of the oil or gas well and a plan identifying the additional measures to be taken to prevent pollution of the water well.
- (11) No oil or gas well shall be drilled within one hundred (100) feet of any stream, lake, or other body of water, so that an undisturbed riparian zone can be maintained, except that this requirement may be waived upon submission of a plan identifying additional measures acceptable to the Supervisor to be taken to prevent pollution of the waters of the State.

Authority: T.C.A. §§60-1-401. **Administrative History:** Original rule was certified May 24, 1974. Amendment filed June 29, 1982; effective August 13, 1982. Amendment filed July 7, 1987; effective August 21, 1987. Amendment filed July 25, 2005; effective October 8, 2005.

1040-3-3-.02 POLLUTION AND SAFETY CONTROLS.

- (1) All personnel, including operators and service personnel shall be trained in the prevention of spills and made aware of the consequences of spillage. There shall be a Site Coordinator designated for each well site who will be the principle contact for all activities on the location and the responsible party for submitting an action and safety plan for each well site.
- (2) Implement necessary procedures and safeguards during drilling and completion operations to prevent the uncontrolled flow of oil from wells, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Follow reasonable procedures such as cleaning and lubricating pipe threads so that pipe can be made up to proper tightness.
 - (b) Lay flow and test lines on ground or install adequate supports. Provide proper protection or line flexibility such as "swings" at stream crossings, or suspend pipelines with proper supports across the streams.
 - (c) At truck loading terminals, provide containers to catch unrecoverable oil at the hose connections, and provide proper maintenance of valves and other equipment. Train personnel to take necessary procedures to prevent spillage.
 - (d) During completion operations, produce and clean wells into tanks instead of pits if at all possible.
 - (e) At the same time that any pits or other diversion, transport, or storage facilities are constructed at ground level, dikes, diversion ditches, or other structures shall also be constructed to prevent any surface water from entering the pits or other facilities.
 - (f) Remove oil, salt water, or other fluids from pits as soon as practical after it has accumulated in them, and dispose of it in such a way that none can enter surface water or ground water, or otherwise adversely affect the environment or threaten public health and safety.
 - (g) All pits or other diversion, transport, or storage facilities shall be constructed so that waste fluids can drain only into pits, and none can escape into the waters of the State, including ground water. There shall be no discharge pipe, overflow weir, trickle tube, or any other device allowing any discharge, unless the operator holds a valid NPDES permit from the Department of Environment and Conservation. No pit shall be located so that any part of it, including a dike or diversion structure, is within a horizontal distance of twenty-five (25) feet of the normal high-water line of any stream or lake.

(Rule 1040-3-3-.02, continued)

- (h) Dikes and ditches designated in items "e" and "g" should be constructed in a manner to accommodate permanent facilities such as pumping units and flow lines.
 - (i) Provide dikes and/or containment pits at storage tanks upon initial installation where such tanks are so located as to be deemed hazardous. If containment pits are to be used, they should be constructed according to the guidelines set forth in Chapter 1040-4-1-.07 CONTAINMENT PIT AT TANK BATTERIES.
- (3) All surface pits must be drained of water and back filled with dirt as soon as they are no longer needed for drilling or testing.
- (4) Implement prudent production operations to prevent potential oil spills, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Connect fill lines to storage tanks so that oil and gas will not spray into the atmosphere.
 - (b) Install "equalizer" lines between adjacent tanks as a safeguard against overflow.
 - (c) Install oil and gas separators where gas is produced in sufficient quantities to be hazardous.
 - (d) Pump contaminated unsalable residual oil from storage tanks into an accumulator tank instead of open pits.
 - (e) Place locks, remove handles, or otherwise secure all valves, so vandals cannot open them to cause spills.
- (5) The Supervisor should notify all oil industry related companies, including operators, service companies, drilling contractors, and crude oil gatherers and purchasers of their responsibility and liability in regard to oil spills.

Authority: T.C.A. §§60-104. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 1975; effective July 5, 1975. Amendment filed June 29, 1982; effective August 13, 1982. Amendment filed July 7, 1987; effective August 21, 1987. Amendment filed July 25, 2005; effective October 8, 2005.